

Notes from the Underground

News for Ottawa's Cross-Dressing Community

August 1994

Vol. 6 Issue 2

Executive

Joanne Law Pres.

Linda V. Pres.

Ronda Tres.

Natalie Sec.

Leigh Editor

President's Report

First thing ---I want to give a round of applause to Belinda for a very special effort in editing a good and sometimes controversial news letter Notes From The Underground. It takes a lot of energy to sit at a computer terminal placing in all the data available and to meet deadlines. The content and graphics were accepted by our advertisers in main

stream society. They did read the articles and the issues on gender was most interesting. So again thank you Belinda from all your fans at Gender Mosaic

Welcome to Leigh As our new editor. She has taken on a mammoth task following in the heal steps of past editors. Good luck I know she can do it.

On another issue, two generous members have donated \$300.00 to Gender Mosaic. Many Thanks. They wish to remain anonymous.

Some of you might know that we have two people sitting on a police commission panel ,

Come to Gender Mosaic's Casino Night!

Place: Hanna's House

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Date: Sat. Sept. 10th/94

Cost: \$5 Members / \$7 non members

Info: 749-5203

Prizes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd place winners!

Games of Chance

Fabulously Dressed People

Rules & regulations available

A Gender Mosaic Fund Raiser

Volunteers are needed to help deal and run the games. Call 749-5203

along with members of the gay and lesbian community, a police officer from the Bias Crime Unit in Ottawa. If you have any information on bias crime give me a call I will mention it at the next meeting

Starting in the month of September we will be relocating our business meetings to the ALGO community center.

See next page

That's it for me---

Now back to our new editor...

Leigh..

The GM Library

Some Featured Books

1. "My Story" by Caroline (Tula) Cossey
2. "My Husband Wears My Clothes" by Peggy Rudd
3. "Coping with Crossdressing" by Joanne Roberts
4. "Horsey" by Catherine Millot
5. "From Masculine to Feminine..." by Jennifer Ann Stevens

GM has over 200 books, magazines and newsletters from around the world. Subjects range from TV fantasy to practical tips, medical advice to vintage books. The GM library also has videotapes and audio cassettes.

GM members may borrow books for up to three months free. Facit members may join the GM Library club for a \$10 annual fee Call (613) 749-5203 for info.

GM always accept library donations.

Please Return All Books ASAP For Inventory

private home of GM President, Joanne Law.

No plans have been made to publicly advertise the new location at this time. Drop-in traffic is expected however

The location was selected because of it's central accessibility. "Any member can now do screening for the club says Joanne pointing to one of the advantages .of holding workshops at a public site. "There's parking and bus service" adds Joanne. The new site includes an honor system coffee bar and a smoking area. There are plans to dedicate one washroom as a change room.

Although ALGO has offered the center at no charge, a voluntary two dollar collection will be taken up, Normally the site is rented at \$30 per night. GM tentatively plans to donate to the operators money collected up to the regular rental charge. Additional funds would remain with the group.

Volunteers will be needed to tidy up at the end of meetings to ensure the center is left as it was at the beginning of the evening.

From the Editor

Thanks Joanne. I hope I can do as good a job as Ted and Belinda have done in the past. With the help of all of you I'll give it my best shot so bear with me for the next few issues.

All the membership can help me get the newsletter out a lot quicker by providing me with the following.

If you have a DOS computer please submit your article on either a 5.25" or 3.5" disk. If you want I can provide you with a disk that you can return to me.

I can take just about any format but would prefer if the article were done in

1: Word for Windows any version

2: Word Perfect for Windows any version.

3: Word Perfect 5.0,5.1

4: Any Text editor and save it as an ASCII file.

Please try not to include any Fancy Fonts or Formatting

I will also take typed submissions of one or two pages as it takes to long to retype it

If you have a Mac!! sorry I don't have the software to convert your files.

Last but not least please try to keep the submissions to one or two pages. I would like to get as much information into the newsletter as possible with a max. of 4 to 6 pages for now.

Thanks Leigh

GM Steps Out of the House

Monthly Club Workshops to Move to Downtown ALGO Center in September

Gender Mosaic is set to move its monthly workshops to the ALGO Center, 318 Lisgar St. near Bank street, every third Monday of the month starting September 19th. The center, operated by the Association of Lesbians and Gays of Ottawa, has been offered free of charge to GM. Meeting times will remain the same from 7pm.-10pm.

The switch to the ALGO center moves the workshops out of the

In The Closet

Everyone has their fears. It's a natural part of life. You may have a family or wife who doesn't know, a career to protect. Maybe you just don't really want to walk down Rideau street in full drag. That shouldn't be a source of guilt!

Protecting your privacy is an important part of crossdressing for most. You step out at your own speed and should make no apologies for it. So lets deal with some practical matters.

Open your own postal box for starters. It allows you to receive all kinds of mail (like NFTU) under any name you want. Boxes range in price, but at last check it was about \$40 a year. The box is registered under your legal name, but mail is sorted according to box number and names don't matter. You can have mail forwarded to your initials. The postal service will only take exception if they think you are operating a business in a private box as business rates are almost double.

Getting dressed for a GM social is fairly easy as long as you bring your clothes with you. Arrange to arrive a bit early and change in the bathroom. Bring some baby oil or makeup remover so you can leave with no traces afterward. The ALGO center also has an extra bathroom. If you're a new member, just show up in your regular male cloths, relax and get to know a few people until you feel comfortable enough to change. Most of all, try not to worry about how you look the first time. Yes, it's important to look your best, but don't stop yourself because you're not Christy Brinkley. No one is anyway!

If you have to store your cloths in the garage, try to wash them once in a while. Do this at a Laundromat. If you're worried about people seeing things, just mix a few male items and they'll figure you're married. If you look nervous they will stare, but not because of what you're washing. It'll be because they'll be wondering why you're such a nervous guy!

Feel free to send in your questions to NFTU In the Closet

Outreach Brochure Ready for Distribution

Plans are nearing completion to distribute a new outreach brochure for Gender mosaic and Factt. The double sided, three panel folder summarizes issues facing Transsexuals and Crossdressers. It also shows how to contact Ottawa's two main support groups.

Distribution plans target hospitals, community centers, medical clinics, libraries, colleges, and social services offices. Only official liaisons will be contacted to ensure the brochures are accepted through proper channels and visibly

placed. In the past, individual GM and Factt members dropped brochures randomly but this method offered no assurance it would not be discarded.

The brochure has been significantly updated from the 1991 original, incorporating new knowledge about the local area. It is designed partly to help the average person understand lifestyles and feelings.

Sharon Ehm, who designed and wrote the pamphlet, hopes to see it distributed region wide this autumn. A GM member, has donated 1,000 copies.

Brochure Planned Distribution

Hospitals, Doctor offices,
Psychiatrist & Psychologist
offices

Community Health Clinics,
Community centers, Regional
Health Department

Special interest groups
(ALGO, etc.), Medical
Associations

Gov't Health Dept.'s,
City/Regional Gov't Dept.'s.

Gender Mosaic Salutes the Family of Pride

by Diana Coltride

On July 17th, Joanne Law and I walked in the Ottawa Pride Parade. This is the first time in our club's history that

we have taken part in this annual event. And Gender Mosaic has become more well known because of this involvement. Not only did we have a chance to carry a banner in the parade and enjoy the picnic, but our participation has opened new doors of opportunity.

Both Joanne and I joined this year's pride committee two months ago. Within a month, we were asked by Kevin Gibb to help put together a segment for CKCU's pride day radio show. This was a new opportunity, and it was a pleasure to take advantage of it. Even though the audience is small, we let a lot more people know we exist. And apart from that it did not cost us a cent.

cont. next page

Thanks should be given to Kelly Finds and Kerin Jordan of CKCU. Joanne Law, Belinda Doree, Niki Ross, for all their hard work.

As for other opportunities, well, if you look on the Pride issue of Capital Xtra issue #11, you will see our beloved president Joanne Law on the cover, on page 30 you will see a group picture with myself and Joanne in it along with the CKCU staff and others. Gender Mosaic gets a mention on page 12 of the same issue. Our phone number is listed on page 22 under support groups. Although our involvement with Pride Day was not everything, the fact that we were there makes us a respected part of the community.

At the actual picnic after the parade, we had a table in the information center where we were allowed to display our banner and put out pamphlets and meet and talk to people walking by.

Joanne was at the site of the picnic the day before, setting up all the tables and barricades ready to accept the onslot of marchers on Sunday. She also had to go back on Sunday morning while in full drag to help wire up the electric's on the

generator so the show could go on.

I designed and hand stitched the banner for the parade. It also made a handy cover for the info-table later on. It wasn't planed that way, but it worked. Frank covered the expense for the banner and helped out at the picnic site. He also took pictures of myself and Joanne at this historic event!!

The parade itself was incredible. 1500 people marching together, down Elgin St. and in front of the our Parliament Buildings on Wellington St.

Although our banner was hardly noticed among the floats and crowds, it was still thrilling. The cameras were clicking, the bystanders were waving and it was just grand, it felt really neat to be part of something this big.

Maybe next year we can put in a float. Renting a pick-up truck might be the way to go. And hopefully after proving to the club it can be done we might get more members to join in the festivities next year.

Anyhow, it was good to be involved, and the people we met along the way might help us grow as a club. Working together we can get so much more accomplished than we possibly could alone.....

Letters to the Editor

There was one letter to the editor but it will not be printed for a very simple reason THERE WAS NO NAME .

If you want your correspondence printed, I will do so gladly but it must be signed by whoever sent it, and your name will be withheld at your request.

Thanks the Editor

GM is in Capital Xtra!

Xtension is Capital Xtra's free 24 hour computerized touch tone information service. For GM Info:

1. Call 237-9872
2. Wait for main menu
3. Dial 1 and wait for instructions
4. Dial code 2071 and the GM message plays

Capital Xtra is a free monthly Lesbian and Gay magazine printed by Pink Triangle Services.

Ed's Note: Joanne Law also writes a regular feature for Hot' Bothered Magazine. She has appeared on television and radio.